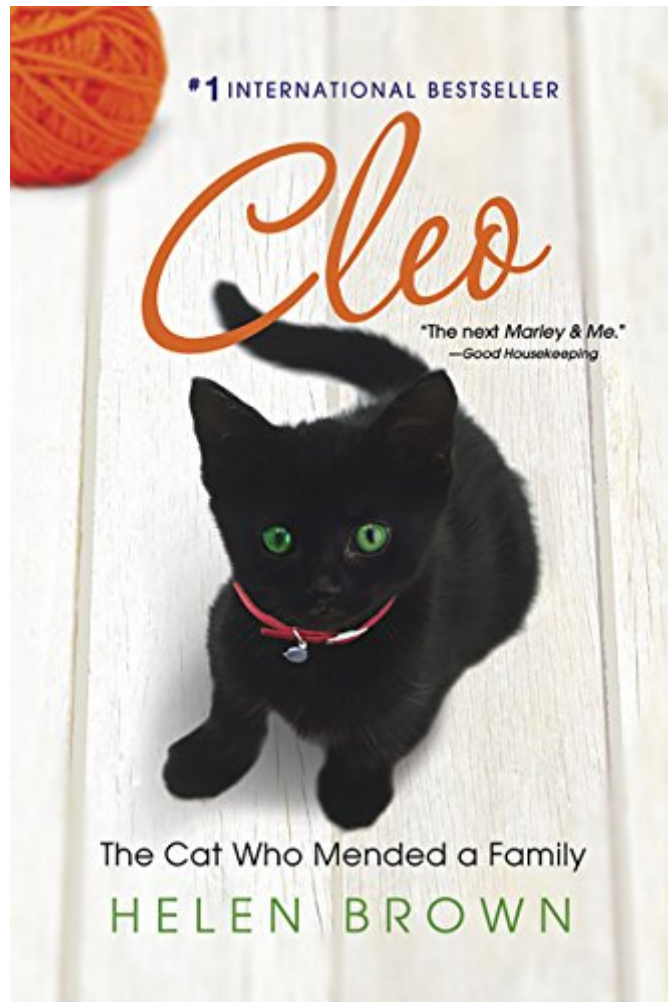


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Cleo: The Cat Who Mended A Family



Synopsis

"We're just going to look." Helen Brown had no intention of adopting a pet when she brought her sons, Sam and Rob, to visit a friend's new kittens. But the runt of the litter was irresistible, with her overlarge ears and dainty chin. When Cleo was delivered weeks later, she had no way of knowing that her new family had just been hit by a tragedy. Helen was sure she couldn't keep her--until she saw something she thought had vanished from the earth forever: her son's smile. The reckless, rambunctious kitten stayed. Through happiness and heartbreak, changes and new beginnings, Cleo turned out to be the unlikely glue that affectionately held Helen's family together. Rich in wisdom, wit, heart, and healing, here is the story of a cat with an extraordinary gift for knowing just where she was needed most. "A remarkable memoir. . . I realized that Helen Brown didn't break my heart at all--she opened it." --Beth Hoffman, New York Times bestselling author of Saving CeeCee Honeycutt "An absolute must." --Cat World "The next Marley & Me. Even non cat-lovers will be moved." --Good Housekeeping

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Customer Reviews

I haven't enjoyed a memoir this much in a long time! Not since April Maley's I Will Not Be Silent has

a memoir affected me so strongly. I laughed, I cried---sometimes simultaneously. I ended the book in an introspective mood...thinking about how life is about the now: enjoying each moment, because nothing is guaranteed. My favorite quote from the book: "We were on borrowed time, but one thing Sam's death taught me is time is only ever on loan. Life can change irrevocably for any one of us at any moment." This book does focus on Cleo the cat, but it's not just about a cat. I read Marley and Me and felt like it was mostly about a dog. Cleo is about a family, but mostly it is Helen's story. In the blink of an eye, her world is turned upside down by the death of her nine-year old son, Sam. She forgets that several weeks prior to the accident, she promised Sam a kitten. Two weeks after Sam's death, Cleo is dropped off at Helen's door. Never mind that she feels too overwhelmed to take care of a kitten, that she has a dog and doesn't know how the two will get along, and that she is not a "cat person." Her other son, Rob, falls in love with the kitten and begs to keep her. What follows is hilarious---Cleo has what we call at my house "Crazy Kitten Syndrome." She is destructive, but is so adorable that the Browns can't really discipline her. The family grows to love her more than they ever expected. The story follows Helen through 24 years of her life. I just love following people's lives for that long! The Browns live in New Zealand, but move several times. It was neat to read about those places. As a Texan, I've never been to England, Australia, or New Zealand, so I enjoyed the perspective on those parts of the world.

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